

8 May 1966

California Farmer
Room 402 - 2412 W. 7th St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90057

Dear Miss McAlinden:

I found the missing envelope that I become buried under specimens and lost for some weeks. Sorry for the delay in getting the determinations to you.

No. 1 - matches the leaf of Silybum marianum Gaertn., milk-thistle. It is a common and most obnoxious weed of waste places and pastures and is naturalized from the Mediterranean region. I recommend it be extirpated before it sets seed and gets firmly established. It might be difficult to get rid of later.

No. 2 - is the California live oak, Quercus agrifolia Nee. It is, of course, not poisonous and is quite harmless. It is not apt to spread unless it becomes a big tree and starts dropping its acorns.

No. 3 - is a dropseed grass Sporobolus. It appears to be the perennial S. contractus Hitchc. It is occasional in dry places below 6000 feet mostly in the Colorado and Mojave deserts in creosote bush scrub up into pinyon-juniper woodland.

Thus the specimens were not too bad after all, mainly because they belong to fairly distinctive species.

Sincerely,

R. F. Thorne